

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 856

By Rich

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Earl M. Smith on
being named the 2010 Tennessee Soil
Conservation Farmer of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as agricultural leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Earl M. Smith is one such noteworthy person who was recently named the 2010 Soil Conservation Farmer of the Year by the Tennessee State Soil Conservation Districts, which includes West, Middle, and Eastern Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a most deserving recipient of this award, Mr. Smith is a renowned fifth generation farmer and committed conservationist who diligently works to sustain the renewable natural resources of Tennessee, while overseeing a profitable agricultural operation; and

WHEREAS, the son of the late Marion and Lois Smith, Earl Smith graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science before joining the United States Army and serving with the courage and conviction of a true patriot in the 319th Artillery Division from 1972-1975; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith began his illustrious farming career in 1977, first serving with acumen and alacrity as a farm manager and later expertly building his own successful modern farm and a sterling reputation to go along with it; and

WHEREAS, a distinguished leader in the farming community, Mr. Smith currently operates a highly-diversified, 1,900 acre farming operation, which produces corn, soybeans, cotton, and wheat; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith is also a responsible steward of the land, as he crops ninety-five percent by no-till methods; and

WHEREAS, his brilliant conservation compliance plan includes using winter wheat for cover crop, installing two cattle panel grade stabilization structures, as well as placing terraces in select fields; and

WHEREAS, tireless in his efforts to abate and prevent water pollution associated with agricultural production, Mr. Smith effectively utilizes funding from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Best Management Program to improve the water quality for all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his many personal conservation practices, Mr. Smith generously donates his time and energy to many organizations that strive to make improvements within the agricultural sphere, including serving as a member of the Hardeman Soil Conservation Board of Directors, the Hardeman County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee, and the Farm Bureau Board of Directors and as the vice-president of the Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts (TACD) of West Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Earl Smith is also a dedicated civic leader who has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order through his involvement with numerous civic organizations, including serving as a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, the Hardeman and Fayette Co-Op Board of Directors, the First South Bank Advisory Board, and the Grand Junction Cemetery Trust; he has also served with distinction as the governor of the Ruritan Hermitage District and as the president of the Grand Junction Ruritan Club; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Mr. Smith was named the Heritage District Ruritan of the Year and has earned the title of Conservation Farmer of the Year for Hardeman County twice; and

WHEREAS, throughout his remarkable life, Earl Smith has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability and integrity, and his friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, a man of tremendous faith, Mr. Smith is an active and devout member of the First Baptist Church of Grand Junction, where he faithfully serves his Lord as a Deacon; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Smith is most appreciative of the love and support he shares with his wife Judy, a computer technology teacher at Bolivar Central High School, and their two sons, Adrian and Justin, who are both following in their father's footsteps and pursuing careers in their family's farming operation; and

WHEREAS, Earl Smith is a man of true character and commitment, exemplifying dedication and leadership; he is admired by his fellow Tennesseans for his tireless efforts to excel, always guided by solid principles and high standards, not only in his farming practices, but also in the actions of his daily life; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the work of men such as Earl Smith, Tennessee's farms enjoy a reputation for exceptional quality, productivity, and responsible stewardship of natural resources, and for his many contributions to this reputation, Mr. Smith should be applauded; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Earl M. Smith on being named the 2010 Tennessee Soil Conservation Farmer of the Year, thank him for his meritorious service to the agricultural community of the State of Tennessee, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.